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Finance Committee Minutes 02-23-04

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM, COMMUNITY
 SAFETY BUILDING
 2/23/04

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*		O'Riordan	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors	Simmons*	Morrisette*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Piandes	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*		Kneeland*

* Indicates present

MINUTES of 2/18/04 accepted as corrected. Unanimous.

MINUTEMAN: DeCoursey reported that the FY05 estimated assessment is \$2,138,458 up from \$2,008,443. The search for a new Superintendent is about to begin.

CLOTHING/CLEANING ALLOWANCE: Franclemont reported that members received a letter from the Manager which clarified this issue.

BUDGET: Tosti has been keeping his account up to date. He believes the revenue based on the Governor's budget is probably "set". He currently predicts a deficit of \$3.5m which includes all known increases. He stated that it is urgent that the FinCom complete its budget review so that the appointing authorities can grapple with the deficit.

BUD 15 ZBA: VOTED \$20,887 as recommended by the Central Govt SubCom (Howard). Unanimous.

BUD 5 COMPTROLLER: Increase due to MUNIS costs. VOTED \$785,101 as recommended by the Finances SubCom (Foskett). Unanimous.

BUD 6 TREASURER: VOTED \$549,140 as recommended by the Finances SubCom (Foskett). Unanimous. The budget book figure was reduced by level funding the banking service line item.

BUD 7 POSTAGE: After correction of a longevity error & reduction of the town postage line item to be in line w/ FY03 actual expense, VOTED \$124,512 as recommended by the Finances SubCom (Foskett). Unanimous.

BUD 8 PARKING: VOTED \$73,871 as recommended by the Finances SubCom (Foskett). Unanimous.

BUD 22/23 PENSIONS: The Finances SubCom (Foskett) corrected the non-contrib pension line item to \$288,428. 15 people now receive this kind of pension. The pension increase is about 4% as predicted. Retirement Board expenses are under control. The pension fund has begun to recover. VOTED \$6,107,184. Unanimous.

BUD 17a COMMUNITY SAFETY ADMINISTRATION: VOTED \$302,851 as recommended by the Public Safety SubCom (Simmons).

BUD 17b POLICE: The Public Safety SubCom (Simmons) stated that this budget supports the BOS-established minimum manning level with increased overtime. There are 7 unfunded vacant positions. The FY03 increase recently settled w/ the ranking officers union requires a \$40,536 increase in the budget book figure. An increase of \$40,374 is needed to cover expected Quinn Bill increases for officers graduating in FY05. O'Neill stated that no serious effort at regional cooperation was being considered other than support for major cases requiring special skills. Tosti will attend a regional cooperation discussion called by the Belmont FinCom chair. DeCoursey moved postponement until support of the BOS was assured. This motion failed 3 - 11. VOTED \$4,330,026 as recommended by the SubCom. 12-2.

BUD 17a INSPECTION SERVICES: VOTED \$301,606 as recommended by the Public Safety SubCom (Simmons). Unanimous. The vacation line item is to pay substitutes when staff is on vacation.

BUD 17b LIGHTING: VOTED to table. The Public Safety SubCom will inquire why the large increase since FY03.

SCHOOLS: The Education SubCom (Fanning) reported that the hearing w/ the Superintendent & School Committee will be

3/8. Errors were found in the preliminary budget which raise the total to \$32,432,612. The schools contribute \$500 to teachers studying for an MA.

COMMITTEE: Mtg on Wed at 7:30 to be chaired by DuBois & Fanning. Purpose is to handle last minute issues though none are expected. The PTBC will attend on 3/1.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE \$388,000

cc Selectmen, FinCom Members , Library file , Town Manager, Town Web Site

Peter B Howard, Secretary, 2/24/04; Revised 3/1/04